MISSISSIPPI Star

YOUTH ISSUE

March 1997
$1.75

BULK RATE
PAID
PERMIT #96
BAY ST. LOUIS
MS 39520

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
312 HIGHWAY 90
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595

Hancock County Library
312 Hwy 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

AMERICORPS: Earning while Learning

Mardi Gras Highlights

Outstanding High School Students

Four diamond rings.
And not one has lost its sparkle.
Three new homes.
With a new one closing next week.
Some extra money in an IRA.
And some interesting ideas on how to spend it one day.
Most importantly, sixteen beautiful smiles headed in the right direction.

At Hancock Bank, we've been helping families just like yours with their financial needs for many generations. And through the years we've worked hard to make our bank as convenient as possible to our customers.

That's why we have offices and ATM's almost everywhere. To be here when you need us, with friendly knowledgeable people to serve you and your family.

So whether you're in the market for a new home, a new car or that first diamond ring, remember, at Hancock Bank, we want to make your business a family tradition.

HANCOCK BANK
Member FDIC
We're Here For You

Equal Housing LENDER

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
312 HIGHWAY 90
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520-3595

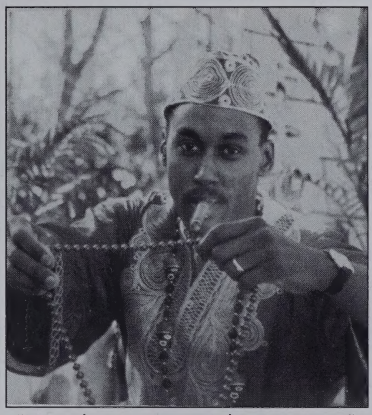
MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL.1 NO. 7 MARCH 1997

CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

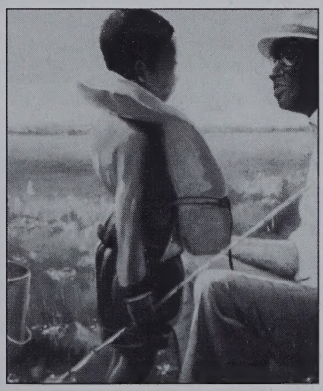
4 Guest Editor
7 Letters
8 People
31 Religion
32 Insight
34 Calendar



"Hey, throw me something, Mister!" Highlights from Mardi Gras balls and Krewe of Real People Parade.

FEATURES

12 Raising a "Can Do Child"
14 Talent
16 Krewe of Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver Ball
18 Krewe of Real People Ball
22 Krewe of Real People Parade
24 Outstanding High School Students
28 Happenings
29 AmeriCorps Offers Opportunity



Joseph Anthony Pearson's *Teach Him to Fish.*
See ordering information on page 34.

GUEST EDITOR

THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY

by Courtney Thomas

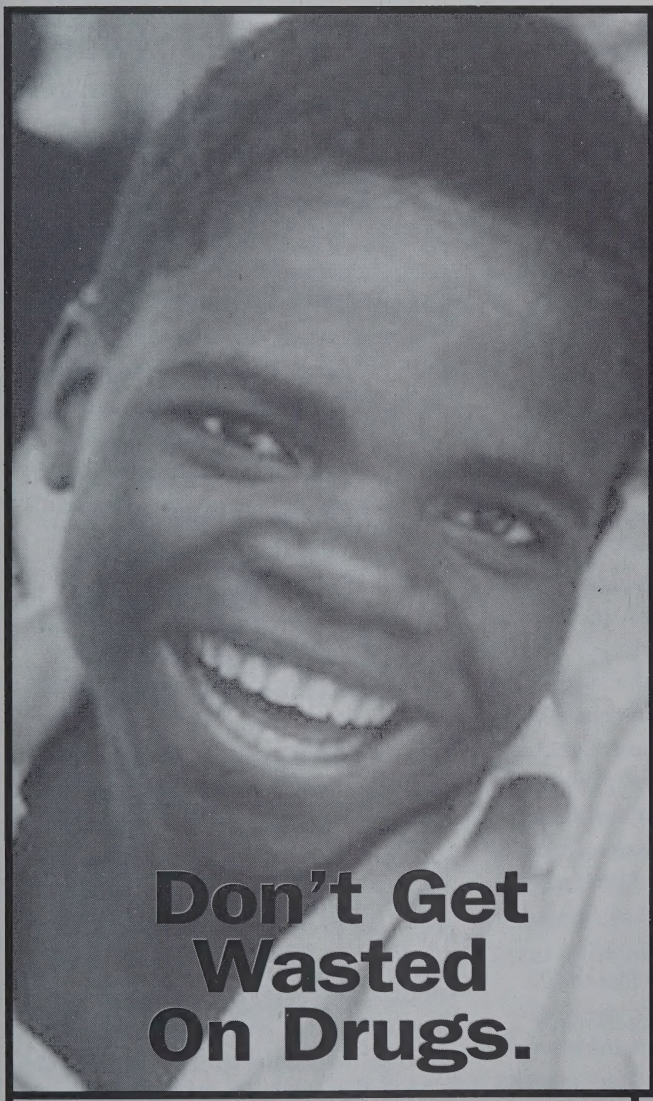
Courtney Thomas

One day last week while I was reading a book, a commercial on the television caught my attention. A young man was explaining to a child about Harriet Tubman and her work with the Underground Railroad. I looked up at the television and saw all of these beautiful pieces of art which were painted by an African-American artist. Then, the man and the child came into view; to my surprise, they were white. The caption appeared on the screen; it said, "Because it's not just African American history, it's American history." Likewise, what you and I are doing here today is not just African American history; its the history of humanity - the story of a people in service to God and to humanity. For you see, everything that African Americans achieved throughout history was accomplished through struggle.

I believe that when we look at the paths of our forefathers, we don't correctly reference their existence. We say, "They were in slavery." I firmly believe that they were not enslaved, but that they came through slavery. When people hear the word SLAVE, they conjure up visions of someone beating a person into submission, thereby, destroying the very existence of one's humanity. But, I submit to you today that the humanity remained intact - the pride of a people remained intact, because if one were to destroy a person's humanity, she could not then rise up and say, "Trouble don't last always - We shall overcome."

From 1619 - 1865, slavery existed in our country. African American men and women suffered 400 years of servitude. Within 100 years after slavery, African Americans were in the top ranks of achievements in this country. Madame C. J. Walker, the first African American millionaire; W. E. B. Dubois, one of the first African Americans to be recognized as an intellectual in American history; George Washington Carver, the scientist of scientists; and my personal hero, Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on our nation's highest court. I mention these names to show that after slavery, although our people experienced the intimidation and exploitation of Reconstruction,

Continued on p. 6



WENDY'S

CONWAY & MARTIN
Attorneys At Law
1600 24th Ave Suite B • Gulfport
863-3183

Sand Hill
Behavioral
Healthcare
Hospital
11150 US Hwy 49 N
Gulfport
831-1700
1-800-831-1700

GUEST EDITOR
CONTINUED...

and to then languish in Jim Crow America, they were still a productive people - a proud people.

I've mentioned the people from the history books, but let us not forget our lesser known heroes: the moms, the dads, the grandmas, the granddads, who instilled in their children a sense of pride - a sense of humanity, to go out and face an unjust world; to never stop being productive human beings. For as Nelson Mandela said, "You are a product of the love and affection of your parents, and throughout your life you have drawn strength and hope from that love and security." Even though they couldn't go in certain buildings, couldn't sit in certain areas, and couldn't drink from certain water fountains (and other things that you and I cannot even imagine), they encouraged their children to work, to get an education and to eventually vote, in order to seek their rightful place in American society.

It is from this spirit that the Dr. Kings, the Malcolm X's, the Rosa Parks, the Medgar Evers came forward to lead us in our struggle for equality. Men and women who stood for justice and equality, led us to the 1954 Brown decision, which ended the practice of segregation in public schools and made it possible for us to attend Bay High and Hancock High - the things that you and I take for granted, but which came with a great cost. Even our gathering here today for this African American history program came out of

MISSISSIPPI Star

PUBLISHER
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bobbie Hays
Tracy Joseph
Stacy James Mackey
Charlotte Phinisee
Marilyn Vertison

ART DIRECTOR
BUCHANAN/FONTAINE
Marketing.Communications.Design

ADVERTISING
Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

BUSINESS MANAGER
Vonretta Singleton

Mississippi Star

Newsstand price: $1.75
Annual subscription rate: $15.00

For subscriptions,
back issues and advertising
inquiries please contact:

Mississippi Star
Post Office Box 2651
Bay St. Louis, MS 39521
601-463-1200

Mississippi Star is a monthly magazine
published by Star Magazine, Inc.

GUEST EDITOR

CONTINUED...

that struggle.

For what we as a people have come through, the very least we can do - those of us who are reaping the benefits of the struggles of our forefathers - is to learn about our past. A rich and diverse history is ours, filled with successful people who are doctors, lawyers, teachers, entrepreneurs, inventors, singers, dancers, athletes; the list goes on and on. Let me leave with this quote (from one of my mother's favorite singers, Diana Ross), which you may find helpful in your efforts toward joining the ranks of those in the history of humanity. "You can't just sit there and wait for people to give you that golden dream, you've got to get out there and make it happen for yourself."

Courtney Thomas is completing a master's thesis in English at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. MS

LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

I congratulate you on the excellence of your publication *Mississippi Star.* Each issue has been better than the last, and I found the February issue to be the most interesting of all. Robin Midcalf's "Memoirs from Russia" was so well written that I felt I was accompanying her on the trip! The pictures also added to that feeling. Likewise, I could vividly visualize your courageous grandmother integrating the public beach in Bay St. Louis as you described on Publisher's Page.

Although the other articles were not long, I was happy to read about Oprah Winfrey's Mississippi background; the historical background of African-American owned funeral homes, as well as the Black History Month art exhibit at George Ohr Art Center in Biloxi.

Thanks so much,

Ninette P. Webster
New Orleans & Pass Christian

Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to Mississippi Star, P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.

PEOPLE

VIVIAN JOYCE GIBSON

Vivian Joyce Gibson is the producer and host of *The Growing Years,* an educational program now in its second season on local public-access television in Jackson, Mississippi. The mother of five children focuses on self-esteem and personal safety issues.

Gibson says that her goal for *The Growing Years* is to "make the world better for children." She is currently talking with a network television station in hopes that it will deliver *The Growing Years* to a broader audience.

Gibson was featured in the January '97 issue of *McCall's* magazine as McCall's Angel of Change.

MS

We've Been Putting People First For 100 Years

We believe in our community and the power of the dreams of the people who live here.

Over the past 100 years,
we've helped a lot of dreams come true –
family vacations, new cars, home improvements,
family businesses.

Call us when you're ready for your dreams to come true.

THE PEOPLES BANK
MEMBER FDIC

Where People Have Come First For 100 Years

435-5511 • 864-2252 • 467-9296

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

SERGEANT CURTIS BODDY, JR.

Sergeant Curtis Boddy, Jr. is a Readiness NCO in the Army National Guard 155th Infantry Division based in McComb, Mississippi. A 12-year veteran of The Guard, Boddy is responsible for the training of 115 soldiers in Bay St. Louis, Poplarville and surrounding areas.

When he is not handling military-related affairs, Boddy supports the efforts of the family business - Boddy Painting Service - a partnership involving he and his father. They employ approximately twenty employees and operate nine vans in the greater Jackson area.

A native of Yazoo City and a graduate of Benton High School and Hinds Community College, the thirty-year-old soldier is the father of a three-year-old son, Curtis Jeremiah Boddy. MS

Would You Like To Earn $197/mo. As A Full-Time Student?

Plus:

- **State Education Assistance Program**
  Up to $8,400 per year, paid to your school
- **College Credit**...*for Basic & Advanced Training*
- **Life Insurance Policy**....*$200,000*

THEN JOIN OVER 10,000 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE
MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- **Some of the Most Modern Equipment in the U.S. Army Inventory**
- **Historically assigned to the Highest Priority Missions**

Open to High School Juniors and Seniors at Least 17 Years of Age or High School Graduates Prior to their 35th Birthday

Contact Your Local Recruiter For More Information

Raising a "Can Do Child"

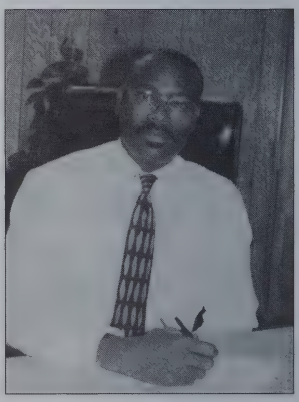
"We must be actively involved in their lives; and we must constantly communicate the positives: 1) respect for others, 2) instill in them the willingness to work hard, and 3)set attainable goals.

Nate Fairconnetue, *Assistant Principal*
Harrison Central High School

"We need to provide an incubation-style environment for our children from infancy to young adulthood. This has nothing to do with genetics or biological ties. It's simply going back to the way we were raised - "It takes a village..." - before we allowed television, i.e., Nintento and arcades to raise our children."

Deborah Washington, *Owner*
Too-No Books Etc., Moss Point

"I think you need some specific ingredients for a child to become a 'can do child' or for a child to become successful. First, when I reflect back on my experiences as a child, I can remember that, although my father peddled fish on the streets of Picayune, Mississippi, and my mother, most of her adult life, like many others, did domestic work, they modeled the perfect work ethic. In addition, my parents, with meager beginnings, were sometimes victims of a time that is past, had vision, set goals and achieved some success. Finally, to develop that 'can do child', you must assist that child in developing good moral character. Simply stated, a 'can do child' must know the difference between right and wrong.



Dr. Philip Terrell, *Superintendent*
Pass Christian Public Schools

The Heart of Hospice is Love

Quality Hospice
OF THE GULF COAST, INC.

Providing hospice care through a team approach enabling families to care for terminally ill loved ones at home.

Nurses, volunteers, chaplain, aides, social workers, psychological support, bereavement counseling, and auxiliary services are offered to help the patient live each day.

Quality Hospice indigent fund welcomes your tax deductible contributions or memorial gifts.

Corner of Howard Avenue & Suter Place • Biloxi, MS 39533 • 1-800-777-4279 • 374-4434

It's Good To Be Home!

Healthcare Specialties:

• Skilled Nursing Care • Medical Surgical Nursing • Psychiatric Nursing
• Maternal Child Program • Newborn Pediatrics • Infusion Therapy
• TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) • Pain Management • Dietary
• Internal Nutrition • Physical Therapy • Speech Therapy
• Occupational Therapy • Home Health Aides
• Social Workers • Medical Equipment & Supplies

Quality Home Health Care Of The Gulf Coast, Inc.

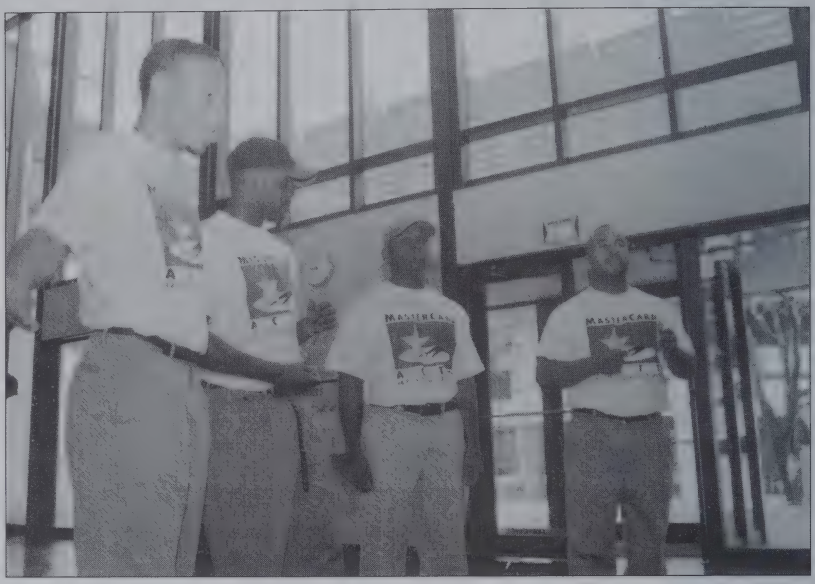
CORPORATE OFFICE

P.O. Box 191 • 1001 Howard Avenue • Biloxi, MS 39533-0191
(601) 374-2273 • Fax (601) 432-0522 • 1 (800) 284-2180

With offices in:

Pascagoula • Escatawpa • Long Beach • Wiggins • Lucedale • Bay St. Louis • Picayune

TALENT



Silhouette Members (from left): Tabari Daniels, Mike Davis, Henry Pierre V and Altro Tate entertain USM fans before leaving for competition in Atlanta.

ATLANTA – A quartet of University of Southern Mississippi students won the top prize at the Mastercard American Collegiate Talent Search Semifinal held at Emory University in Atlanta on February 8.

Silhouette, four USM students whose music earns them comparison to Boyz to Men, received a cash award of $1500 and an invitation to the National Association of Campus Activities Convention in Pennsylvania.

At the February 8 performance in Atlanta, Silhouette performed *Forever*, an original piece composed by group members, and an acapella rendition of Peter Cetera's *It's Hard to Say I'm Sorry.*

Silhouette members are Mike Davis of Gulfport, a junior computer engineering technology major; Henry Pierre V, a freshman music education major; Tabari Daniels of Gulfport, a junior radio, television and film major; and Altro Tate of Hammond, LA, a senior music industry major.

MS

When my father developed a chronic wound, he said he could live with it.

I couldn't

If someone you know or love has developed a wound that won't heal, you owe it to yourself to get all the facts. The Wound Care Center® has successfully treated most types of non-healing wounds, including those associated with diabetes or poor circulation.

We use an innovative approach to treating serious wounds and sores that no other wound clinic offers - an approach which actively stimulates the healing process.

It can mean the difference between living with a wound and really living.

Before your parent or friend gives up hope, give us a call for more information.

Wound Care Center®

Gulf Coast Medical Plaza, Suite 103
180 DeBuys Road • Biloxi (601) 385-1339

GULF COAST MEDICAL CENTER

Krewe of Knights & Ladies of Peter Claver
Mardi Gras Ball

King Joseph I
MAURICE SINGLETON, SR.

Queen Naomi I
JENNIFER MARTIN

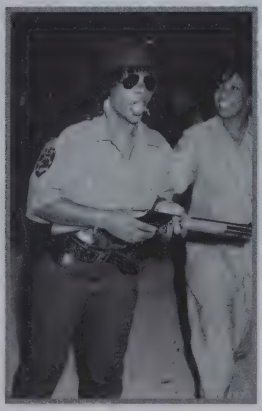
Mistress of Ceremony
WLOX's Miyoka Broussard

Nadia Fairconnetue and her uncle Russell Fairconnetue honor king and queen with a Lionel Richie and Diana Ross classic, Endless Love

Grand Lady Marilyn Smith (right) presents plaque to Catherine Green, Casino Magic's Director of Community Relations

Krewe of KLPC Mardi Club
Captain Alvina Nichols

Duke Rochon, Alexander Verrett and Duchess Leonora, Joan Thomas



Rhonda Labat (left) and Judith Verrett entertain king and queen with a humorous skit to Sam Cook's *Chain Gang*

Krewe of KLPC Ball Photos by Luther Ladner

REMEMBERING THE TIME: A SALUTE

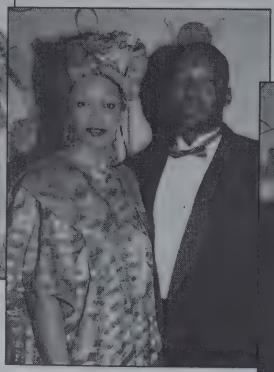
Krewe of Real People 16t

King XVI, Wesley Labat and Queen XVI, Kimberly Bradley

Queen Gudit (Dianne Burton) and King Shamba Bolongongo (Don Keith Lee)

Queen Makeda (Lul
and King Shaka Zu
Jimerson, J

Queen Tiye (Diane L. Saucier) and King Osei Tutu (Nick Saucier, Jr.)



Queen Nzingha (Laverna L. Harrington) and King Hannibal (Ronnie Thomas)

Queen Nehanda of Zimbabwe (Azzie Henderson) and King Tenkamenin (Donovan Watts)

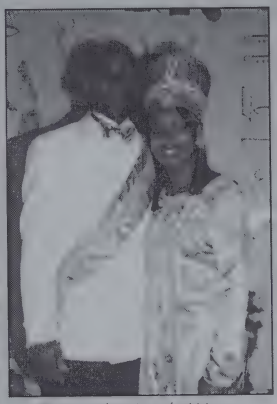
Queen (
Saucie
(Ber

ISTORIC AFRICAN KINGS AND QUEENS

Annual Mardi Gras Ball

Queen Amina of Zaria (Citronella Davis) and King Thutmose, III (Roderick Dwayne Robertson)

Queen Yaa Asantewa (Querita Harris) and King Ja Ja (Otto C. Singleton, III)



Queen Nefertari (Nefretiti Lyons) and King Akhenaton (Craig Saucier)

Queen Hatshepsut (Pamela Martin) and King Affonso I (Clarence Singleton Harris)

Cynthia
harqa
III)

Queen Nandi (Dina M. Benoit) and King Tutankhamon (Robert Joseph Dorsey)

Queen XVI Kimberly Bradley and sister, Krewe Co-captain Deirdre Bradley

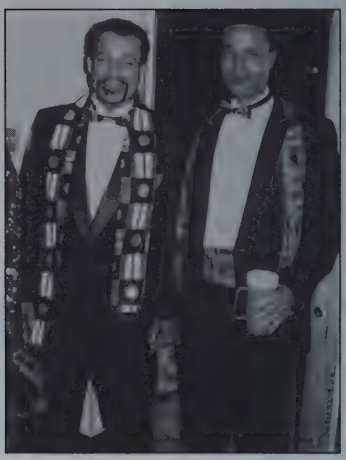
Krewe of Real People Mardi Gras Ball Photos by Jimmy Loiacano

Krewe of Real People

Master of Ceremonies Walter Moore and
Mistress of Ceremony Pamela Hatfield

Alfriza Acker, recipient of the
Ellsworth Collins Service Award

Yoruba Zulus entertain Royal Court .



King VI Byron Curry and
King II Lonnie Bradley.

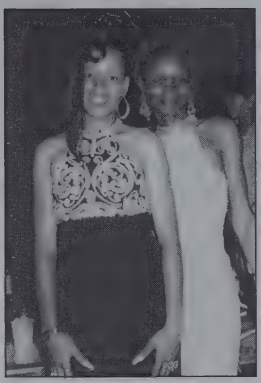
Charles Joseph receives plaque hon-
oring the late Ellsworth Collins.

16th Annual Mardi Gras Ball

King XVI Wesley Labat and brother King XV Eric Labat.

Queens of Africa entertain Royal Court with tribal dance.

King XVI Wesley Labat is congratulated by his proud mother, Geraldine Labat.



Marrissa Lyons and Monica Price.

Kolbi and Kree Cameron perform ballet for Royal Court.

Oreathia C. Smith performs dramatic monologue, The Prodigal Son.

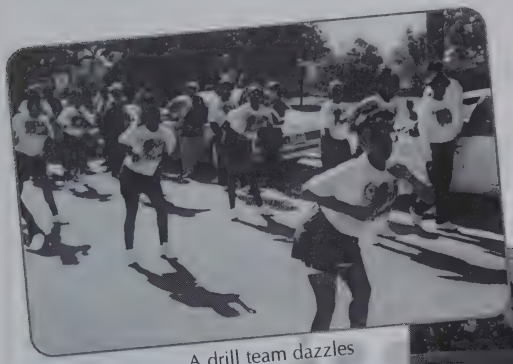
Krewe of Real People 1997 Mardi Gras Parade

Krewe of Real People Queen
Kim Bradley

Krewe of Real People
King Wesley Labat

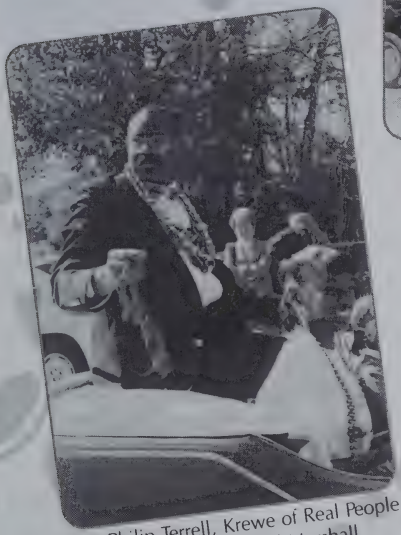
Golden Fairconnetue struts the ritual
second line dance on parade route

King Wesley Labat toasts
Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre



A drill team dazzles

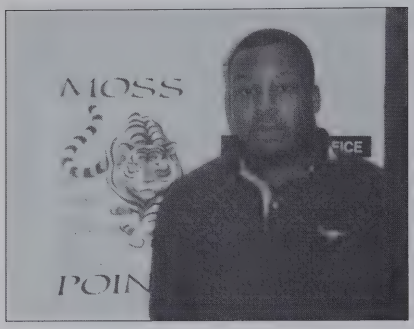
JZ 94.5 Van cruises with The Krewe



Dr. Philip Terrell, Krewe of Real People
1997 Parade Grand Marshall

Krewe of Real People
Captain Queen Williams

Outstanding High School Students



Muskingum Barnes received numerous awards and considerable recognition for his contributions to the Moss Point Tigers State 5A Football Championship. Among them, Rotary Defensive Player of the Year, All State, All Coast, and Defensive MVP for Region IV. However, the thing that impresses Muskingum most is his performance in the classroom in which he holds a 3.65 GPA.

"I'm going to college to get my education," the 6'3', 240-pound student explains when the suggestion of looking past college arises. "If I go pro that will be great. But my priority right now is my education."

Muskingham's collegiate career begins this fall in Baton Rouge where he will be splitting his time in the classroom and the football field at LSU. He is the son of Michael and Tredia Barnes.

Nicole S. Jones is the reigning Miss Harrison Central High School. The senior editor of the Yearbook Staff is active in the performing arts club, French Club, Quill and Scroll and several other campus organizations.

Nicole says that her mother has been the inspiration for her leadership and active high school experience. "My Mother has always treated me like I was the best," Nicole explains. "She has always pushed me to the highest point, so I have always tried to prove her right."

This fall Nicole plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and major in International Business. Nicole is the daughter of Ruby Jones of Gulfport and Franklin Jones of New York.

Tracy Michelle Wesley currently ranks 19th in her senior class of 272 students at Hattiesburg High School with a grade point average of 95.21. Hattiesburg High School's reigning homecoming queen, Tracy balances her performance in the classroom with a very active schedule of extra-curricular activities.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Student Council and Girl Scouts; and she is senior class treasurer. She has been a cheerleader since junior high school and is a National Cheerleader Association All American Cheerleader.

Her favorite subjects are history and physics, and she plans to begin her studies toward a career in physical therapy or medicine this fall. Tracy says that she draws inspiration from her parents, Joseph and Andrea Wesley, and her 19-year-old sister, Denise. MS

HANCOCK

MEDICAL • CENTER

...dedicated to providing the best in health services

149 Drinkwater • Bay St. Louis

467-8600

Monti Electric Supply

Lighting Showrooms

GE & Challenger Circuit Protection • Wiring Devices • Wire/Cable • Industrial Lamps • Residential, Commercial and Industrial Lighting • Mobile Home Hook-up Supplies

Waveland **467-8246**

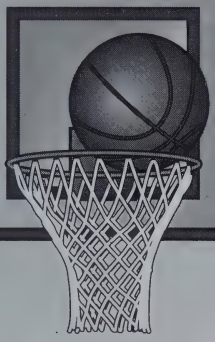
Ocean Springs **875-4777**

MISSISSIPPI Star

Subscribe To Mississippi Star!

12 Issues $15 • P.O. Box 2651 • Bay St. Louis, MS 39521

Don't Miss The Action!



St. Rose de Lima Basketball Tournament

MARCH 16-17 & 22-23

MEN & WOMEN'S TEAMS

Contact Thomas Farve

467-6718

McNair Chiropractic Centers

Dr. Lawrence McNair

2315 Pass Rd • Gulfport

(601) 863-6300

Dr. Vernie F. McNair

837 Vieux Marche • Biloxi

(601) 436-9300

Auto Accidents | Work-Related Injuries | Sports Injuries

The Family Child Center

For the Prevention of Child Abuse

South MS Child Advocacy Center

"Changing the World One Family at a Time."

Help us help other families stop the cycle of child abuse. Volunteers welcome!

For more information call: 601-868-8686

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Maria M. Moman, M.D.

4333 15th St. • Gulfport

863-3800

Office Hours

Monday - Friday

By Appointment Only

HAPPENINGS

PASS CHRISTIAN – Mrs. Mayme Joseph celebrating her 80th birthday with her brother George Biggs and four sons (standing from left) Kenneth Youngblood and Paul Joseph of North Wales, Pennsylvania, Peter Joseph of Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Oscar Joseph of Pass Christian.

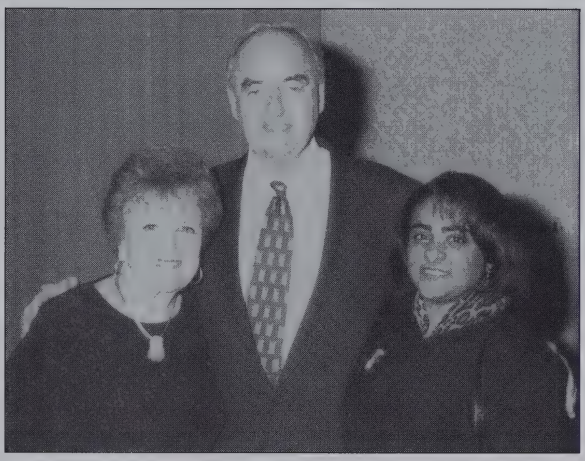
She had never had a birthday party. But she told her sons that if she were fortunate enough to see her eightieth birthday, a party was what she wanted. So when Mrs. Joseph turned 80 this past January 1, her four sons joined her to celebrate her first birthday party.

(From left) Halcyon Morris, Nicole Morris, Alicia Fulton, Eboni Nichols and Courtney Cann. Participants in the Black History Oratorical Contest, sponsored by NAACP Hancock County Chapter and Omega Psi Phi, Inc. Iota Upsilon Chapter.

NAACP Hancock County Chapter members recognized for serving the organization during 1996. Diane Morris, Secretary, Lonnie Bradley, Assistant Secretary and Mrs. Mary V. Clarke accepting for her husband, Mr. Thomas Clarke, Parliamentarian.

AmeriCorps Offers Opportunity For Earning While Learning

by Karen Labat



National Conference for State Commission Executive Directors in New Orleans, February 1-4. (From left) Janice Ayres, Chair, Nevada Commission for National and Community Service, Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service, Washington, DC, and Karen Labat, Executive Director, Nevada Commission for National and Community Service

Would you like to make a positive difference in your community? Need money to further your education? Do you enjoy working with children, the environment, human needs or public safety programs? If any of your answers are in the affirmative, they you may want to learn more about AmeriCorps, a three-year-old national community service initiative where citizens over 17 years of age provide up to two years of service in exchange for educational awards.

The GI Bill from the 1940's offers an important model for today's national service program. The idea behind the GI Bill was a simple principle of reciprocity: when you give exceptional service to your country, you deserve something back in return. The GI Bill offered scholarships to the veterans of WWII. With the knowledge they gained as a result, those veterans spurred the economic boom in America's history. Helping AmeriCorps members pay for higher education is mutually beneficial - to the members, and to the community which receives the benefits of their efforts.

Better recognized as a domestic Peace Corps program, AmeriCorps offers full time members a modest living allowance, health care benefits, and a wealth of experience to citizens who commit to a year of service. Upon completing 1700 hours of service, AmeriCorps members also receive an educational award of $4625, which may be applied to past, current or future tuition costs at any accredited college or university. Members receive forbearance on most qualified student loans, which means they are not required to make payments on loans while providing service to the community. AmeriCorps members can utilize the award for up to six years after service is rendered. Provisions of $2365 are provided for part time service of 900 hours within one year.

Never has there been a greater need for community service programs. Most adult men and women now work full time. Our professional lives now consumes 164 more hours per year (an extra month) than it did in 1970. Because of this demand on our time, most traditional volunteers can give only a few hours each week, at best, to community concerns. Experienced volunteers know that unless service is managed by people with the training and time to plan and coordinate efforts, maximum impact will not be realized. AmeriCorps target those with time to give: young people at the start of their careers, those who are changing careers or making other transitions, and senior citizens. Less costly than professionals, but better trained, more dependable and more available than traditional volunteers, AmeriCorps members plan a critical role in maximizing the effectiveness of unpaid volunteers. They actually provide the infrastructure for dramatic expansion of volunteerism by strengthening communities and encouraging responsibility on the part of today's youth.

"GETTING THINGS DONE" is the motto for AmeriCorps, and that is exactly what approximately 25,000 members are accomplishing across the country. AmeriCorps members provide services to communities with unmet needs in four priority areas: education, the environment, human needs and public safety. In the areas of education, they tutor elementary school students, and lead teens in community service activities. In the are of public safety, members assist crime victims, walk the beat with community police officers, and engage adolescent in violence prevention, ;leadership and conflict resolution activities. Addressing human needs, members recruit and train volunteers, renovate low income housing, help homebound seniors or people with disabilities, immunize children against preventable diseases, and develop community-based health care programs. AmeriCorps members address environmental concerns by providing immediate and long-term relief in areas affected by natural disasters, restore national parks and coastlines,a nd develop plans to revitalize neighborhoods and the environment.

For more information on engaging young people 17 years of age and older in this unique and exciting opportunity to promote education and service learning, please feel free to contact me, Karen Labat, Executive Director, Nevada Commission for National and Community Service, 200 South Third Street, Suite #200, Las Vegas, NV 89101; or call me at (702)486-2730. There are National Service Commissions in every state which monitors and develops AmeriCorps programs in which AmeriCorps members serve through non-profit and community organizations. For information regarding AmeriCorps opportunities in Mississippi, contact Marsha Meeks Kelly, Executive Director of the Mississippi Commission for National and Community Service, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6453 or (601)983-6738.

Remember, never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, its the only that ever has. MS

A Faith Testimonial

by Adrienne Bradley, Contributing Student Writer

If someone were to ask me whether or not I believed in God, I would have to say yes. I believe that everyone has God in their system, and everyone should love God. My feelings for God, however, have been more enlightened in the past four years. As a child I felt that I was forced to attend church. For some reason I believed that I was going to heaven even if I missed those nine thirty-five a.m. masses. However, during the summer of 1993, I came to a turning point in my life when I was nearly killed when hit by a train.

Thankfully, God was watching over me; and I recovered. At that point I decided to start my life off fresh. I turned to a more open and enriched catholic experience in terms of my education. My first views of my catholic education were that everyone was so intrigued with God and that I did not belong. Why would I belong? I would ask myself. I was the same person who went to church every other Sunday. I was also the same person who I felt only thanked God because he had given me one more shot at life and then turned around and questioned him for doing so. As time passed from my freshman year to where I now stand as a senior, I have grown to appreciate the everyday exposure of God and his presence in my life. I have also grown to love church and what it represents, which is quite different from when I felt forced to sit through countless hours of my Great Uncle's sermons.

At the age of eighteen, my peers and I are arriving at a critical point in our lives. Many of us have been reared in the church. The foundation that our parents and grandparents instilled in us from the time we were small children has managed to stick with us. At the same time I have some peers who were also reared in the church, however as they have grown older, they have pulled away from God. Some continue to attend church but they also involve themselves in activities that are not consistent with the path God has set for us. But why? The answer is not simple.

What is the connection? between God and those who have continued to hold Him close to their hearts? As time passes on, will those who have been distracted away from God be able to turn to God after they have graduated from high school and college, or after they marry and start families? Can the distracted be distracted by God and give their full attention to Him for all seasons - and not only in their times of need?

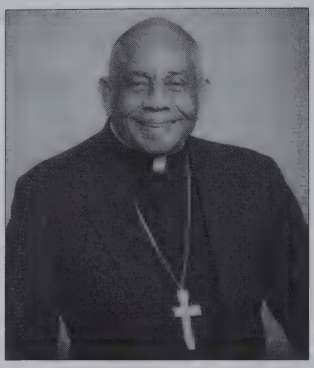
Will the faithful remain faithful and openly rejoiceful as their opportunities arrive to rear their own children the way they were reared? Each one of us will have to decide for ourselves. It may be a near-death experience as I encountered, or simply overpowering feelings of love for God that refuse to be ignored. Whatever the case, I would hope that everyone discovers and celebrate jubilantly God's presence in their life.

Adrienne Bradley lives in Gulfport and is a senior at Our Lady Academy in Bay St. Louis.

An Easter Message

by Most Rev. Joseph Lawson Howze, D.D.

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi



Christ's resurrection is central to the faith of Christians. St. Paul admonished us not to doubt Christ's resurrection: "Tell me, if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how is it that some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead, Christ himself has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is void of content and your faith is empty too." (1 Cor. 15:12-14) The celebration of Easter, like every eucharistic celebration, demands our faith. Without faith there is no Easter, no "Amens," and no "Alleluias."

There were no eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection. There were eyewitnesses to the empty tomb, but an empty tomb is not proof of the resurrection. Some of the guards thought the disciples had stolen Jesus' body.

The disciples had a faint faith that Jesus had risen as he said, but they did not fully understand the Scriptures relating to Jesus' death and resurrection. They began to have a deeper faith when they saw the risen Lord on several occasions following his resurrection. These experiences helped the disciples come to a deeper and living faith in the resurrection. Of course it was also necessary for the Holy Spirit to enkindle and renew the light of the faith on the first Pentecost.

In order for us to continue the lifelong task of nurturing our faith, we must still hear the gospel message and celebrate the event of the First Easter. With the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we have arrived at a sufficient understanding of Sacred Scripture to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of our Christian Faith. The knowledge of Christ's resurrection deepens our faith, confirms the Christian way of life, and gives meaning and purpose to our daily actions. The celebration of Easter helps us follow the path of salvation, believe that God will transform the world, and know that our efforts in this life are not in vain. The Resurrected Lord is still present in the world today, helping us to change our lives in order to fulfill Gods' wishes, to respond to the needs of our fellow human beings, and to become the fulfilled persons we desire to be. MS

ORDER A SUBSCRIPTION TO

MISSISSIPPI *Star*

It Makes A Great Gift, Too!

12 Months.....$15.00

☐ Yes! Please send me the next 12 issues of *Mississippi Star* at the address below. Enclosed is a check to cover the cost of my subscription at the low, introductory rate.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Please photocopy this form or provide the information requested and mail to:

Mississippi Star • P.O. Box 2651 • Bay St. Louis, MS 39521

If ordering additional subscriptions, please enclose payment and address information.

Charter Mortgage

SUZANNE MICHAELS

(601) 466-6680 or **(800) 708-7886**

101 Hwy 90, Suite C • Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

- Seminars
- Corporate Meetings
- Conventions
- Art Exhibits
- Military Briefings
- Festivals
- Family Reunions
- Trade Shows
- Theme Parties
- Grand Openings

PLANIT TP

Tammy Paige
Meeting/Party Planner

P.O. Box 17732
Hattiesburg, MS 39404-7332
Phone: 601-268-2758
Fax: 601-268-2756

GULFPORT FOOT CLINIC

Medical and Surgical Footcare

- Children's Foot Problems
- Reconstructive Foot Surgery
- Fractures-Trauma-Sprains
- Sports Related Injuries-Sports Medicine
- Warts-Corns-Callouses
- Bunions-Ingrown Toenails-Heel Pain
- Diabetic Foot Care

896-3976
406 Courthouse Plaza, Gulfport

582-2925
Petal Foot Clinic

474-2606
Moss Point Foot Clinic

Dr. Edwin UD. Essien
Podiatric Physician & Surgeon

AMBULATORY OFFICE FOOT SURGERY
MON FRI 9 AM - 5 PM
We accept most insurances. VISA, MasterCard Accepted.

CALENDAR

MARCH 1
Family Fun Day
Victory Full Gospel
Baptist Church,Ocean Springs
9:00 am

MARCH 3
Mississippi Gulf Coast
Association of Black
Journalists Meeting
7:00 pm

MARCH 6
Starting Your Own Small
Business Workshop
Jackson Enterprise Center,
Jackson
6:00 - 9:00 pm
For Information,
Call 968-2795

MARCH 8
Life Choices Expo
Gulfside Assembly
950 S. Beach Blvd.,Waveland
10:30 am - 3:00 pm

MARCH 9
Unique Fashions Presents
Jonathan Adewumi
Fashion Designer
(African Weddings)
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Patricia Gillum
385-7272

MARCH 16-17 & 22-23
St. Rose de Lima
Basketball Tournament
Men & Women's Teams
Contact Thomas Farve
467-6718

MARCH 17
NAACP Hancock County
Chapter Monthly Meeting
Valena C. Jones
United Methodist Church
7:00 pm

MARCH 21
Academic Spring
Visitation Day
Jackson State University
University Park Auditorium
High School Juniors & Seniors
Junior College Sophomores
8:30 am

MARCH 22
Too-No Books, Etc.
Grand Opening
South Gate Plaza, Moss Point
9:45 am

FEDERATED ACCOUNTING
AND TAX SERVICES
Personal and Business
Income Tax Services
• ELECTRONIC FILING • FAST TAX REFUNDS •
Harold Wilkerson Doris Wilkerson
406 EasterBrook St. • Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
467-2079

ON THE COVER

Teach Him to Fish, **by Joseph Anthony Pearson, is available at a cost of $25 plus S/H. To purchase a reproduction, call 463-9762 and leave a message.**

Emerald Coast Auto Sales

Denied Credit By Other Area Dealers?

WE CAN HELP!

Quality Pre-Owned Cars!

3 Great Locations

- Specializing in '91-'96 Automobiles
- Free 30-Day/1,000 Mile Warranty
- 24 Month/24,000 Mile Warranties

$500 toward downpayment with this coupon

535 Pass Rd. GULFPORT	1680 Pass Rd. BILOXI	2120 Azalea WIGGINS
863-6390	374-2211	928-4990

1-800-363-8452

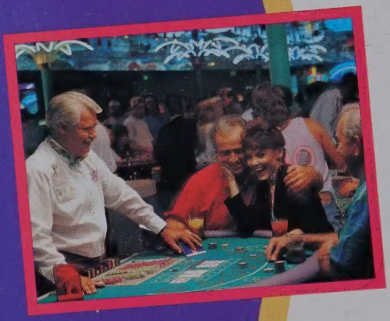
Isle of Capri® Casino Crowne Plaza® Resort Biloxi, MS

- Caribbean-style resort hotel with 370 oversized rooms – all with magnificent views of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- Non-stop casino excitement
- Three restaurants/Free live entertainment
- Health club, outdoor pool, sun deck and massage therapist
- For reservations, call 1-800-THE ISLE

Casino America Brings The Caribbean To The South!

Isle of Capri® Casino & RV Park Vicksburg, MS

- Hot casino action 24 hours a day
- Festive tropical atmosphere
- Two restaurants
- New RV park features 65 deluxe pull-throughs, showers, laundry facilities, pool, whirlpool and free breakfast
- For reservations, call 1-800-WIN ISLE



Isle of Capri® Casino

Biloxi, MS • Vicksburg, MS
Bossier City, LA • Lake Charles, LA

For more information, call **1-800-THE ISLE**
Properties of Casino America, Inc.